

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) 889 Post Offices have been provided with computers in the State of Tamil Nadu. District-wise details are given in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix 209, Annexure No 7.)

(b) Out of 889 Post Offices as stated at (a) above, postal counter operations and saving bank functions are already computerized in 663 and 86 Post offices respectively to provide improved services to the customers. Postal life Insurance work has been computerized in the Circle/ Regional administrative offices ensuring faster issue of policy bonds and processing of claim cases.

(c) Computerisation of the counter operations and introduction of multipurpose counter machines for single window counter service has helped to reduce the waiting time at the counters.

Pan-indian satellite telephone service

2430. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plan has been formulated to set up a pan indian satellite telephone service by leveraging the INSAT satellites of the Department of Space for network expansion and strategic applications;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status;

(c) to what extent the satellite telephone service would cover additional areas which have no communication network presently;

(d) whether any telecom operators have been licensed to operate the satellite telephone services; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL has planned to provide Village Public Telephones (VPTs) to 14,183 villages in inaccessible, far flung and remote

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areas in various parts of the country on satellite media through Indian National Satellite (INSAT) of Department of Space

(b) Hub equipment of Satellite VPTs is under installation at Secunderabad, UP. BSNL has requested Department of Space (DoS) for allocation of transponder in Ku Band and DoS has taken actions to build sufficient capacity in the INSAT system to meet the requirements.

(c) Satellite VPTs would provide telephone connectivity to 14,183 villages in inaccessible, far flung and remote areas. The telecom circle-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed (See below).

(d) All Basic and Unified Access Service (UAS) licensees can provide telephones through any media including satellite within its licences service areas

(e) M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd., a UAS licensee, has provided 850 VPTs on satellite media in Andhra Pradesh.

Statement

List of VPTs to be provided on satellite media by BSNL

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	No. of VPTs
1	Andhra Pradesh	115
2	Assam	279
3	Jharkhand	1694
4	Himachal Pradesh	275
5	Jammu & Kashmir	465
6	Madhya Pradesh	443
7	Chhattisgarh	88
8	Maharashtra	496
9	North East-I	578
10	North East-II	1289
11	Orissa	4899
12	Rajasthan	18
13	Uttaranchal	3544
TOTAL:		14183